

REMARKS

Claims 1-29, 69-71 and 91-92 remain in the application. Claims 6, 69, 71 and 91 have been amended. Claims 30-68, 72-90 and 93-108 have been deleted. The Examiner is authorized to charge **any** fees arising from this response to Deposit Account No. 10-0096.

Claim 6 has been amended to correct the typographical error identified by the Examiner. Claims 69, 71 and 91 have been amended to depend from Claim 9.

The Examiner has rejected Independent Claims 1 and 9, as well as dependent Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16-17, 19, 21 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by USP 5,189,642 (“Donoho”). Applicant traverses this rejection on the grounds that Donoho does not teach a seismic unit having a case in which **all** of the components of a seismic unit are disposed.

The Examiner looks to Fig. 1 of Donoho as teaching a “a continuous case with the compartment for the geophones being a part of this case.” This is simply not a correct interpretation of the device taught in Donoho. Rather, Donoho teaches a seafloor recorder 101 that has a geophone housing 141 which is **separate and distinct** from a control package housing 123. At Col. 6, line 9, the control package 123 is introduced and described as having various electronics and power means. Notably, it states the “control package 123 is comprised of a sealed housing 125.” At Col. 7, line 61, the geophone package 140 is introduced and described as having a geophone housing 141. Significantly, at Col. 7, line 67 the geophone housing 141 is described as being “comprised of the same grade of aluminum **as the control package housing 125**” (emphasis added). Since there would be no need to separately introduce and describe a “continuous case” that houses both the electronics and the geophones, this sentence makes it very clear that the geophones 147, 149, 151 are housed in a completely separate case from the control electronics.

This is in fact illustrated in Fig. 2, where the relative positions of the control package housing 125 and geophone housing 141 are shown when seafloor recorder 101 is configured in its “recording” mode. Col. 6, line 39. The Examiner will appreciate that one of the purported novel features of Donoho is that the geophone package 140 can be isolated from the control package 123. Col. 4, line 45. This is accomplished by causing the chassis and control package 123 to “rise toward the surface for a short distance” on leg extensions 119. Col. 4, line 44.

What the Examiner views in Fig. 1 is simply the control package 123 and geophone package 140, and their respective housings 125, 141, abutted against one another when seafloor recorder 101 is configured in its deployment mode, prior to the chassis and control package being raised on leg extensions 119. While housings 125 and 141 may abut one another, they are not a single case as is taught and claimed by Applicant.

Significantly, at Col. 8, line 6, Donoho teaches that geophone housing 141 has an access port 145 to provide a means of electrical connection to control package 123. In the preferred embodiment, an “8 pin connector is utilized . . . to permit geophone signals and sweep input data to be transferred to control package 123.” This electrical connection is illustrated in Fig. 2 by the unnumbered external wire running from geophone package 140 to control package 123. Also noteworthy in Fig. 2 is that there is an external wire running to control package 123 from hydrophone 155 and also to the base of leg extension 119. Clearly, if the geophones 147, 149, 151 and control electronics were all located in “one continuous case”, there would be no need for access port 145 or the illustrated wiring.

One of the novel features of Applicant’s invention is the avoidance of external wiring such as is shown in Donoho. By incorporating the control electronics and the geophone in a single case as taught and claimed by Applicant, no such external wiring is necessary.

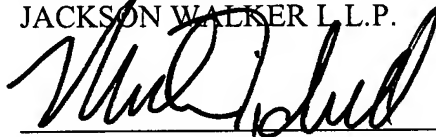
In light of the foregoing, it is very clear that Donoho does not teach a geophone and the control electronics all within the same case and thus, Donoho does not anticipate Claims 1 or 9.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Examiner has relied on Donoho in combination with various other references to reject dependent claims 5-6, 12-15, 20, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In these rejections, the Examiner relied on Donoho as teaching "a continuous case with the compartment for the geophones being a part of this case." Since the Applicant has distinguished Donoho as set forth above, the use of Donoho in these rejections should be withdrawn, and accordingly, the rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Finally, to the extent Claims 1 and 9 are allowable, other claims that recite more than one geophone within the case, whether 2, 3, 4, 5 or more, should also be allowable. For this reason, Claims 18, 69-71 and 91-92 should not be withdrawn from the application.

A prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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In re Patent Application of
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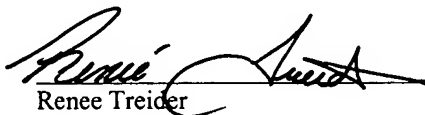
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